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Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00
INR-05 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 IGA-01 OMB-01 EB-04
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8192
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0892

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID PORG EPAP LA VN WFP
SUBJECT: AMERICAN NATIONAL WFP OFFICIAL STOPS IN LPDR EN ROUTE TO SRV

REF: A VIENTIANE 0761 NOTAL, B VIENTIANE 0831

SUMMARY: WFP REPRESENTATIVE DISCUSSED CURRENT AND FUTURE WFP PROGRAMS IN LAOS AND VIETNAM. TONY COMO, AN AMERICAN NATIONAL, SAID THAT WFP IS CONSIDERING THREE PROGRAMS IN LAOS AT A TWO-YEAR COST OF $3 MILLION AND THREE PROGRAMS IN VIETNAM WHERE THE TWO-YEAR COST WOULD BE $15 MILLION. COMO SAID HE HAD TURNED DOWN PROPOSAL FOR WFP SUPPORT TO A DRUG ADDICT REHABILITATION CENTER IN LAOS AS WELL AS AID TO A PROJECT INVOLVING RELOCATION OF VIENTIANE RESIDENTS. HE SAID HE REGRETTED WFP SUPPORT TO "NEW ECONOMIC ZONE" PROJECTS IN VIETNAM AND THAT THREE NEW TWO YEAR WFP PROJECTS IN VIETNAM WOULD BE IN THE AREA OF FORESTRY AND IRRIGATION. COMO INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING U.S.
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DONATED MILK TO VIETNAM AND SPOKE OF HIS CONCERN THAT WFP PROGRAMS IN LAOS AND VIETNAM BE EFFECTIVELY MONITORED. END SUMMARY.

1. WFP REPRESENTATIVE TONY COMO, EN ROUTE TO VIETNAM, TALKED WITH EMBOFF ABOUT WFP PROJECT PLANS IN VIETNAM AND LAOS. COMO ARRIVED IN VIENTIANE MAY 31 AND WILL

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LEAVE FOR VIETNAM JUNE4, WHERE HE PLANS TO SPEND APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS REVIEWING WFP PROGRAMS AND DISCUSSING WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS THERE ADDITIONAL WFP PROGRAMS AS WELL AS AN EMERGENCY AID PROGRAM.

2. COMO SAID THAT THE WFP IS CONSIDERING THREE PROJECTS IN LAOS: 1) FOOD AID TO "HIGH VULERABILITY CATEGORIES" (EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS): 2) AN IRRIGATION PROJECT; AND 3) A RE-FORESTATION PROJECT ("FOOD FOR WORK" PROJECT IN WHICH WFP WOULD PROVIDE FOOD TO PROJECT EMPLOYEES). COMO SAID THAT THE THREE PROJECTS FOR 1977-78 WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY $3 MILLION.

3. HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN URGED BY UN REPRESENTATIVES IN LAOS TO UNDERTAKE SUPPORT OF A DRUG ADDICT REHABILITATION CENTER ("KILOMETER 62" REF A), BUT THAT HE HAD REJECTED THE PROPOSAL ARGUING THAT THERE ARE OTHER PROJECTS IN LAOS OF MORE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, COMO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE WFP HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT REGARDING ASSISTANCE IN THE RELOCATION OF VIENTIANE CITIZENS TO AGRICULTURAL ZONES (REF B) BUT THAT HE DISAPPROVED OF SUCH A PROJECT, ADDING THAT HE REGRETTED EXISTING WFP SUPPORT FOR THREE "NEW ECONOMIC ZONE" PROJECTS IN VIETNAM AT TAY NINH, SONG BE AND AN KHE.

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5. COMO EXPECTS TO BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL WIDELY IN VIETNAM VISITING EXISTING WFP AIDED PROJECTS AND DISCUSSING WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS THREE ADDITIONAL PROJECTS: TWO IRRIGATION PROJECTS AND A FORESTRY PROJECT ("FOOD FOR WORK"), EACH TO BE A TWO YEAR PROGRAM WITH A TOTAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY $15 MILLION. HE ADDED THAT AN ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD AID PROJECT FOR $5 MILLION HAD ALREADY BEEN GRANTED TO VIETNAM (AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE).

6. COMO EXTRESSED INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY THAT 10,000 TONS OF POWDERED MILK (APPROXIMATELY $1 MILLION) WHICH WAS RECENTLY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE WFP BY THE U.S. MIGHT BE GIVEN TO VIETNAM. COMO SAID THAT INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS UTILIZING U.S. DONATED FUNDS OR COMMODITIES HAD TO RECEIVE SPECIFIC U.S. APPROVAL UNDER U.S. LAW. EMBOFF NOTED PROBABLE DIFFICULTIES IN U.S. APPROVAL OF SUCH ASSISTANCE GIVEN EXISTING LEGISTLATION.

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00
INR-05 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 IGA-01 OMB-01 EB-04
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8193
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0892

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7. COMO SAID THAT HIS MAJOR CONCERN IN ADMINISTRATION OF WFP PROJECTS IN INDOCHINA WAS ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR ADEQUATE MONITORING. HE SAID THAT WHILE THUS FAR VIETNAM APPEARED TO BE WILLING TO GRANT ACCESS BY WFP OFFICIALS TO ALL WFP AID PROJECTS, IT APPEARED THAT ACCESS TO PROJECTS IN LAOS WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT DUE TO LAO "SECURITY CONCERNS". COMO STATED THAT HE WOULD REJECT ANY PROJECT TO WHICH APPROPRIATE LWFP OFFICIALS COULD NOT HAVE ACCESS.

8. COMO SAID THAT HE HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH U.S. OFFICIALS SINCE THE GOVERNMENTS OF VIETNAM AND LAOS AGREED THAT HE WOULD ACCOMPANY THE PRESENT WFP REPRESENTATIVE IN LAOS AND VIETNAM ON A THREE WEEKS INSPECTION VISIT.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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